THE GENESEE FARMER.

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☞ THE MONTHLY GENESEE FARMER is made up of selections from this paper, and published on the first of each month, forming, with Title-page and Index, an annual volume of 200 pages, at the low price of FIFTY CENTS a year, *payable always in advance.*

THE GENESEE FARMER.

SATURDAY, FEB 6, 1836.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS.

We solicit the attention of our readers to the inquiries made in the subjoined extracts, and shall be gratified to receive answers to them from those who can give the desired information.

Murrain in Cattle.

The following is from a subscriber at Olmstead, Ohio:

"Can you, or any of your correspondents, prescribe a cure, or preventive, for the Murrain in cattle? If so, you will be rendering an invaluable service to the community by publishing it. Is the commonly received opinion that it is caused by *bloodsuckers* or *leeches* correct? It is a very common disease in this part of the state, and so far as my knowledge extends, it always proves fatal, generally in from twelve hours to three days after the first symptoms are discovered. I lost a valuable ox two years since with this disease, who the day before performed his work (of dragging new land) with all his accustome vigor. It is a source of more discouragement to the farming interest of this otherwise highly favored portion of country, than all other causes put together. It seems by reference to the 9th chapter of Exodus, that the Murrain was one of the plagues of Egypt, but whether it was the same disease which is now known by that name, I am not competent to determine. That leeches are frequently found in the livers, and other parts of cattle, which die of the above disease, is a fact not to be controverted, and believers in the theory attest that they are drawn into the *stomach* in consequence of the beast drinking stagnant water where they frequently abound. But if so, why is it that cases of Murrain should be comparatively unknown in other sections of our country."

—

Straw Cutters.

From a subscriber at Poughkeepsie:

"Having seen in the Farmer several notices of machines for cutting straw, corn stalks, &c., and being in want of one, I should like to see a description of the Columbian Straw Cutter, which I believe is manufactured in your city. Green's Straw Cutter I do not like, as it cuts the straw or hay too long. I want it in a particular manner for cutting corn stalks, and I think they should be cut three or four times in an inch. I do not recollect to have seen a particular description in the Farmer of the Columbian Straw Cutter."

We shall give a particular description of the Columbian Straw Cutter as soon as we can get a drawing engraved.

—

Wintering Cattle on Straw.

From the same letter from which the preceding is taken, we give another extract:

"Having read in your paper an account of wintering cattle on straw, I have been trying it this winter. From the time I commenced threshing till about the first of this month, I gave them nothing but straw, and I think they never have done better, although I have generally given them two or three tons of hay by this time. I am now feeding them with corn stalks cut, and they eat them clean without any thing with them, if they are cut about one-fourth of an inch in length. I have a machine, with which I cut my stalks by horse power, but the knives want grinding often, and they are bad to take off and put on so as to cut good. As it respects wintering cattle on straw, or any thing else, I think it is necessary that they should have a supply of water that they can go to when they please."

—

Fowl Meadow Grass.

Our correspondent at Plymouth in Luzerne county, Pa. is informed that we hope soon to have leisure to attend to his queries.

—

The Horse Rake.

In answer to the inquiry of a subscriber at West Flamboro', N. C. and to several others who have made similar inquiries, we would state that neither the Patent or common Horse Rake are to be procured in this city, nor do we know where they can be procured. The manufacture of these rakes is so simple that we doubt not our friend will be able to get some mechanic in his vicinity to make one which will answer every purpose. We have now before us a letter from a subscriber at Kingston, U. C. in which he says that he made one from the description given in the Gen. Farmer, vol. 5, page 185, which works admirably, and for which he received a premium from the Agricultural Society of his district.

—

Canada Thistles.

"Will you or some of your correspondents tell me how I can, with the least trouble, destroy the Canada Thistle."

—

Orchard Grass and Lucerne.

"A friend requests me to inquire through your paper, as to the good qualities of the Orchard Grass and Lucerne or French Clover, and whether they would be profitable for farmers in Niagara county."

—

Fattening Sheep on Ruta Baga, &c.

From a subscriber at Montpelier, Maryland:

"Can you give me some idea of fattening sheep upon ruta baga or mangel wurtzel. I mean this:—Suppose I wish to fatten 1000 sheep, (the sheep to be fat by the 1st or 15th of March,) how many bushels of turneps will it take to do it, with hay or straw, and one-fourth or one-fifth bran with the cut turnep or mangel wurtzel at every feed. The quantity and manner of feeding these roots your correspondents have invariably omitted to state, which is certainly an important matter to the inexperienced.'

—

Answers.

We know of no way to forward the articles for which our friend at *Nile Farm* writes, before the opening of navigation.

The request of J. C. F., Skaneateles, was attended to, but with what effect we have not been able to learn.

The request of G. W. R., Baldwinsville, has been attended to, and we are promised an article from Mr. Houghton on the subject on which he wants information.

THE ROAD LAWS.

It was suggested to us some weeks ago by a member of the Legislature, that probably some efforts would be made during the present session to repeal the statutes relative to highways, and to introduce a more efficient system. Our prosperity as a people requires such a change. If we have not the worst roads in the United States, they are at least eminently bad during no inconsiderable part of the year; and as none venture out at such times but those whom business or duty leads to work their way through the mud, or even the rough frozen *hubs*, the highways remote from our principal villages, become solitary.

The new law ought to lessen the number, and increase the responsibility of the overseers. At present, each of these officers,—like the Israelites of old,—does that which is right in his own eyes; and we do not believe that any direction from the legislature, however useful, would be obeyed. This opinion is founded on the fact that not an overseer in ten—perhaps not one in a hundred—has ever regularly thrown the loose stones out of the beaten track of the highway according to law. Yet this requisition has been made and repeated for more than twenty years; and certainly, nothing that is done on our roads would improve them so much with the same amount of labor.

As the law stands at present, every inhabitant has a right to work out his own tax; and this is no loss to the public when he does it faithfully; but indolent habits on such occasions have so long prevailed in some places, that the overseer to be appointed under the new law, ought to have the sole power to select his laborers.

We do not consider this *saving* however, as the principal thing to be attained; for the badness of our roads, arises chiefly from *a misapplication of labor.* There is too much work done on them, because it is not of the right kind. It is a serious fact that in this quarter the roads that are most neglected, are generally in the best condition. There may be some exceptions to this remark where there are bridges, or where there is water that requires to be turned off, or where loose stones are abundant; but we recol-

lect no other exception. The stuff that our roads are made of, would annually grow better in consequence of heavy rains removing the lighter parts of the soil,—that is, the materials would be *purified*,—if the overseer could be restrained from interfering; but no sooner does the road in many districts become *compact* and settled, than the plough and scraper are set to work; and every thing of a soft and porous nature that is within reach,—such as sods, muck, and mud, together with stones or chips,—is again hauled into the middle of the beaten track! Such a wide departure from the dictates of sound sense can be most readily explained by saying, *it is the fashion.*

We are satisfied that no beneficial change can be extensively effected, unless the Legislature will direct how the roads ought to be made, naming or describing the materials that are suitable, and unsuitable. Our present system is so radically wrong,—the judgment of men who have not examined the subject, is so much biased by early prejudices—so much perverted by preposterous practices—that from their labors little good can be expected, except when they act under the direction of others. If this remark should seem discourteous towards many citizens highly estimable in other respects, we would apologize by saying that our object is the public good; and that we, like the surgeon who probes a wound, must make our delicacy give way to our duty.

It has occurred to us that a Board for the supervision of roads ought to be established in every county, at which each town should be represented. It should appoint overseers of highways, audit their accounts and inspect their work, carefully observing if the requisitions of the legislature are, or are not, fully carried imto operation. We are not disposed however, to go much into details at present, though we would suggest that an overseer might do the work of some forty or fifty of our present overseers, for he would probably do best under constant employment. Of course, none but efficient men of fair characters ought to be chosen. Under such a system, when the road taxes shall be paid in money, a more rigid accountability will be required than at present, when the presence of a man or boy on the road counts for a day, whether it has been spent industriously or not.

In a future number we may notice other particulars.

The Vermont Farmer.

Messrs. Richards & Tracy, editors of the Vermont Chronicle, at Windsor, have commenced the publication of an agricultural paper under the above title, to be issued monthly at 50 cents a year. They have heretofore occupied a column or two of the Chronicle with Agricultural reading, with much credit to themslves and we doubt not benefit to their readers. They are the right men for such a paper; and we hope they may receive that patronage their paper so richly deserves. Sure are we, that if the farmers of our own dear hills and dales, duly appreciate their interests, they will not let the Vermont Farmer share the fate of the Farmer's Journal formerly published at Rutland.

ERRATUM.—Page 18, col. 2, line 8 from the bottom, for *bushels* read *baskets.*

ESPALIERS.

Espaliers are fruit trees, the branches of which are trained upon a lattice of wood work or trellis, extended on opposite sides from the main stem so as to point in two directions only. They thus in external appearance resemble hedges. They are commonly placed along the borders of the principal divisions of gardens, and serve the double purpose of a shelter to such plants as need it, and of producing fruit without occupying much ground. From their beauty and novelty, they contribute much to the pleasing appearance of a garden, and serve to screen the least ornamental parts from the sight of persons in the walks. As they should not in general exceed six feet in height, they are more especially adapted to the smaller kinds of fruit trees, and dwarfs.

The most convenient mode of constructing a trellis to train the branches upon, is to provide a number of poles or stakes of uniform length, and drive them into the ground in an upright position, a foot or two asunder, preserving them at equal distances by nailing a lath along the top. Three or four laths nailed at different heights would render them still more firm. In order that the trellis may not be exposed to the weather an unnecessary length of time, it should not be made until three or four years after the trees are transplanted, and during this time the proper direction may be given to the young branches by fastening them to a stake driven on each side of the tree. By thus deferring the construction of the trellis, it will not be liable to decay before the extended branches become large enough to retain their position without fastening or support. As the branches are to be trained horizontally at regular distances from each other, lateral ones are to be left a few inches apart from near the ground to the top of the tree. These branches should be extended as straight as possible at their full length, and the most vigorous and thrifty only left for this purpose, the rest being trimmed off.

THE AUSTRALIAN BEE.

In the Gardener's Magazine for December, 1835, J. C. Loudon says in reference to Hobart Town and the neighborhood of Sydney, "The latest account which we have from this quarter relates to the European Honey Bee. *The native bee is without a sting, and not much larger than a common house fly: it produces abundance of honey and wax, but has not yet been subjected to cultivation;* and, from its small size and its habit of building on very high trees, probably never will be so. The European bee has been more than once introduced into Sydney but without success, the swarms having always left the hives for the woods. A hive was carried to Van Dieman's Land in the autumn of the year 1830 by Dr. T. B. Wilson, and brought from London *in a wire case.* It arrived in safety, and the bees swarmed several times the first year; and in the *True Colonist* (a Hobart Town newspaper) of Feb. 14, 1835, now before us, it is stated that a hive descended from Dr. Wilson's, belonging to a gentleman in the nighborhood of Hobart Town, has already swarmed eighteen times. The inhabitants of Hobart Town and its neighborhood, in testimony of their gratitude to Dr. Wilson for the invaluable services he has rendered them, presented him with a silver snuff-box; on which occasion the Doctor announced his intention of bringing out in his next voyage, the salmon and trout, for which the rivers in Van Dieman's Land are considered to be admirably adapted. These are the deeds which should, and which will, commemorate the name of a man to the latest posterity."

FUEL.

Among farmers it is a very common practice to have their fuel, where fire-places are used, chopped ready for burning, in the woods; and when intended for the stove, it is in the same place cut into three or four feet wood, as the case may be, and then at the house sawn into proper lengths for burning. Wood, in many parts of our country, is already an important article, and is rapidly becoming so in all, since most of our land holders and farmers are more anxious to destroy trees than to plant them, appearing to be equally insensible to their beauty and their value. In this state of things is it not a decided waste of means, for a farmer to get his wood in the manner above described? We think it is—and though reasons plenty as blackberries might be adduced, we shall content ourselves with one. In cutting wood, when on a tree of two feet in diameter, the chopper, if he understands his business, will, at commencing on a log, take out a chip, or calf as it is called, of from sixteen to eighteen inches in length. This, where the logs are cut of the average length of three feet, will cut up into chips at least one fourth of the wood, and these in most cases are left where they fall, to rot. Now every housewife knows, that when wood is drawn in what is called sled lengths, or logs of twelve feet, and these are cut up in the wood yard of the house, that the chips furnish a very valuable and convenient part of her fire wood; and every farmer knows, that though when cut in this way many chips will be fine and unfit for burning, yet they are far from being lost, quickly rotting when scraped into heaps, and when drawn and spread upon his land furnishing manure of a most valuable kind. That the farmer should get his year's supply of wood in the winter there can be no doubt. It can then be much easier drawn, his teams have then little else to do, labor can be procured at a cheaper rate, and what is more than all the rest, wood when drawn and cut fit for use in the winter, is far more valuable than when cut in the summer, when the resinous juices of the tree are dissolved in the sap, or employed in the formation of leaves. Another thing in getting wood should not be forgotten—if in the winter, only wood is got to last till winter comes again, green must necessarily be used during the cold weather, at a very great loss of fuel, and expenditure of comfort. On the first day of March, there should be fuel enough in the wood-house or yard, to furnish an ample supply until that day comes round again; and then farmers would complain less of cold houses and chilled fingers, and the industrious housewife feel less temptation to lecture her spouse on the evils of green wood and smokey chimneys. c.

Never feed out your best potatoes and plant the refuse—nor sell your best sheep and keep the poorest.

THE MONTHLY FARMER.

The second number of this publication was issued on the 1st inst.

☞ We have been much gratified by the favorable reception the MONTHLY FARMER has met with from the public; and we cheerfully render our thanks to those who have so promptly seconded our efforts for the diffusion of Agricultural information. We annex a list of the post-offices from which we have already received more than six subscribers:

Aurora,	9	Fayetteville,	13	New Haven,	7
Ashville,	7	Franklinville,	11	Ovid,	12
Brighton,	8	Gerry,	8	Otisco,	10
Buffalo,	7	Grand Blanc,	10	Oakfield,	11
Brockport,	36	Holland Patent,	7	Oswego,	9
Barrington,	8	Hudson,	11	Pittsford,	14
Baldwinsville,	9	Holley,	7	Parma Center,	12
Black Rock,	7	King's Ferry,	7	Perry Center,	12
Cazenovia,	7	Livonia,	48	Scipioville,	19
Caledonia,	8	Ludlowville,	14	Starkey,	7
Colborne, U C.	12	Lee,	12	South Barre,	7
Clyde,	12	Lancaster,	14	Sennet,	7
Darien,	9	Mendon,	8	Trumansburg,	12
De Witt,	13	Manlius,	9	The Square,	7
Delphi,	7	Miller's Store,	7	Vesper,	7
Dayton, Ohio,	7	Marcellus,	14	Westernville,	12
E. Bloomfield,	16	Moravia,	9	Warsaw,	7
Erwin Center,	7	Newark,	7	Waterville,	12
Fredonia,	22	Naples,	7	Yates,	7

There are some eight hundred or more post-offices in Western New York alone, from but a small number of which we have as yet any subscribers to either our Weekly or Monthly paper. It can hardly be doubted but what there are some individuals in the vicinity of all these offices, who might be induced to take the Monthly Farmer, if the subject could be brought before them. We shall be grateful to any of our friends for any assistance they may be able to render us in extending the circulation of our paper, either by obtaining subscribers for it themselves, or giving us the names of such gentlemen as would be likely to aid our enterprise, to whom we might send specimen numbers.

THE RED LABURNUM.

This is mentioned as a new shrub lately introduced into shrubberies and pleasure grounds in England. The scientific name has not been given, though it is probably a *Cytisus;* and we have only learned that "it is a great additional ornament, especially when mixed with the rich clusters of the purple and white lilac, its graceful ringlets blending with those of the yellow [laburnum] so long held in estimation."

From the Farmer and Gardener.

The Blind Staggers.

Having seen by a notice in the *Village Herald*, some weeks since that this alarming disease was prevailing in Somerset County, (Md.) and had then already killed from 60 to 70 horses, and seeing also communications were solicited, we prepared the subjoined paper and sent it thither for publication, prefering, as the disease was rapid and deadly in progress, that *medium* to our own journal, in the hope that as it would thus appear earlier where the malady existed, it would thereby stand the better chance of doing more substantial benefit. Our object having been attained, we insert it in order that it may be more generally spread abroad, and be available wherever the aliment may present itself.—*Ed. F. & G.*

Blind Staggers in Horses.—The *Village Herald* of the 22d inst., says, that a large number of horses had died in Somerset County, of this State, of what is termed *blind staggers.* That the number has already reached 60 or 70, and many were laboring under the disease. The editor having requested to be informed of a remedy, we take the liberty of making the following observations:

This disease is one which often defies the most skilful treatment, and is, indeed, one in which death generally supervenes. The exciting cause of this disease is not easily to be traced. It has been produced sometimes in the heat of summer, when the horse has been too fat, or full of blood, from over heating, causing an influx of blood to the brain. Dr. Harden, of Morgan County, Georgia, though he does not advance the opinion inclines to the belief, that it results from water getting in the ear of the animal; that he had always noticed the attacks to follow a rainy spell. But though they differ as to the cause, all the authors we have consulted prescribe the *free* use of the lancet, even to faintiness, and the most active purgative medicines. The purge which acts most quickly being considered the best, and that is said to be the *Croton nut*, powdered at the time, and given in a drink, in the dose of half a drachm to be followed by smaller doses of ten grains each, every six hours, with plenty of injections of warm soap and water until the bowels are well opened. If the Croton nut is not at hand, *aloes* may be dissolved in hot water, 1 oz. at the first dose, and afterwards 1-4 of an oz. every four hours until purging is produced, this effect being produced, *fox glove* and *tartar emetic*, in doses of a drachm each, 3 or 4 time a day should be given. In addition to this treatment, the back of the head should be *blistered.* From the general spread of this disease in Somerset County, and from the season of the year, we should, ourself, be inclined to believe that it is not referrible to *fat* in the afflicted animals, or to their being over-heated; nor have we much faith in its proceeding from water in the ear. We believe it owing to some vitiated condition of the food or atmosphere, inducing a tendency of blood to the brain; but be the cause as it may, depletion from the veins and bowels is the only treatment in which security can be found. If the horses which have been attacked have been running in pastures, they should be immediately stabled, so as to be protected from the deleterious effects from the pastures or the noxious miasma as much as possible. If the stables were fumigated before the horses were put into them, with murite of soda, (common salt,) manganese and vitriolic acid, much good will ensue. It would be well also to sprinkle solutions of chloride of lime over the stable floors twice a day for a week or two.

We had prepared the above article when a friend put into our hand Dr. Mason's "*Pocket Farrier*," by which we perceive he ascribes the disease to horses feeding on grass in the spring and fall, late at night and early in the morning, at which time, he says, the field and pastures are covered with a poisonous web, which is spun and spread upon the grass by a small spider. So rapidly, so industriously, does the little insect work, that in the space of one night not a blade or spire of the grass is left untouched. This web, catching the dew drops on its besom, causes the fields in the morning to glisten and sparkle as if covered with a thin sheet of ice. A horse, says Dr. Mason, that feeds upon a pasture in this situation must of course, collect large quantities of this *web* and *dew*, and very often the spider itself. They act upon the horse, producing delirium, giddiness, apoplexy, and sometimes death. The lungs, he says, appear to be the principal seat of the disease; upon dissection, are found enlarged, covered with large brown spots, smell offensively, and have the appearance of mortification.

The large quantity of poison taken into the stomach, says the Doctor, acts upon its nerves, and by sympathy acts upon the large nerves of the head, which accounts for the dull, giddy and dejected countenance of the animal, and induced many to believe the disease was confined to that part alone. The poison is then removed from the stomach by the activity of the lymphatic and absorbent vessels, thrown into the circulation of blood, diffused over every part of the system, and finally carried by the arteries into the lungs, through which all the blood in the body of a horse passes many times in an hour and undergoes a change. Sometimes a *determination of blood to the head takes place, which generally ends fatally,* producing furious delirium, the horse throwing himself about with great violence making it dangerous for any person te venture near him.

So much for Dr. Mason's *Theory.* Now for his *Symptoms.*—The symptom of the staggers are drowsiness, inflamed eyes, half shut and full of tears, the appetite bad, the disposition to sleep gradually increased, subtleness, a continued hanging of the head, or resting it on the manger, rearing, falling and lying in a state of insensibility, walking a circle for a considerable length of time, the ears hot, with a burning fever, &c. &c.

Now for his

Remedy.—Take from the neck vein, a *half a gallon of blood*, three times a week; take of sassafras tea, three half pints; plantain juice, half a pint, assafœtida, half an ounce, saltpetre, one teaspoonful; mix and give them as a drench three mornings in a week; give an injection composed of one pint of meal, two quarts of water, one quart of molasses and one spoonful of hogslard—let the horse be moderately exercised, and whenever he is standing, should be well rubbed; give a mesh twice a week, composed of one gallon of bran, one table spoonful of sulphur, one teaspoonful of saltpetre, one quart of boiling sassafras tea, and an eighth of an ounce of assafœda; not permitting the horse to drink cold water afterwards. Should he be much mended by this treatment, nothing more will be necessary, except feeding him on bran or a light food of any kind, but should he appear to receive no benefit from these attentions, in four or five days, take of *calomel* twenty-five grains, of *opium* two drachms, *camphor* two drams, powdered *fennel* seed one drachm, of syrup of any kind, a sufficient quantity to make the ingredients into a ball, which may be given every morning for four or five days, by which time the horse will get well, if his disease will admit of a cure.

And now for his

Preventive.—Horses that are confined in a stable never have the staggers; consequently it would be advisable for every person, whose situation will admit of it, to confine their horses, particularly at night during the fall and spring months.

Worms in the Head of Sheep.

Samuel Allinson, of Yardville, N. Y., makes the following statement in the N. E. Farmer:

Sheep affected by the "worm in the head" soon pine away; it is impossible to fatten them. A constant running at the nose commences, first of a glairy mucus, which is succeeded by bloody and corrupted matter. They rub and sometimes strike their heads against fences, &c.; and I have observed them, particularly lambs, froth at the mouth, and jump into the air until, exhausted, they would fall to the ground.

Having in several instances succeeded in curing them, even in the last stage of the disease, I have thought the remedy I employed might be worthy of publicity. During the autumn of 1833, my flock consisted of about sixty sheep, most of them recently purchased. During the fall and winter, a number of them died; but not until in the spring, when I had lost fifteen or sixteen ewes and as many lambs, did I discover the cause. Opening the head of one to see in what condition it was in, I found several dark headed white worms, varying from one half to three-fourths of an inch in length, and one-eighth of an inch in thickness. The cartilage of the nasal organ was in a sadly corrupted state. A number of the other sheep were apparently near their end from the same cause. Selecting three of the worst, I tried what I thought a desperate experiment, pouring a teaspoon full of spirits of turpentine down each nostril. It evidently gave them considerable pain at first, but I soon had the satisfaction of seeing them quietly grazing. I then administered the dose to all the dirty nosed sheep in the flock, and do not now remember losing one that was full grown for many months. Last spring I found they were again affected, and repeated the turpentine potions, mixed however with an equal quantity of olive oil, which I thought would render it less liable to injure the sheep. The result was again successful; and, though I had despaired of ever curing some of them, this autumn the whole flock has gone to the shambles.

COMMUNICATIONS.

LETTERS FROM A FATHER,

Living in the State of New York,

To his Son in Western Pennsylvania.

NO. VI.

To my Son—In the enumerations contained in my last letter, of articles suitable to be used for manure, ashes, leached and unleached, should have been included. They would have been included, and accompanied with appropriate remarks, but for the fear of rendering that letter too prolix. Ashes, leached and unleached, are generally useful as articles of manure, and on many soils they are so in a high degree. They may be applied advantageously to corn, to potatoes, to flax, and to almost every crop that is cultivated in this country. They are, as I have found by my own experience, excellent as top dressings to meadows. When unleached ashes are used for corn, they should be applied at the time of planting. A handful or two may be given to each hill of corn, and it is better to cover them with the seed. It has been found, that when unleached ashes are applied to corn after it has come up, they are too caustic for the health of the tender plants, and frequently do injury rather than good. Yet ashes, if skilfully and prudently applied, are of great use to the corn crop. Here I close my remarks relative to the manner of accumulating manures, and the articles to be selected for that use. I have dwelt long, perhaps too long, on these subjects, yet I hope what I have written upon them will not be found altogether uninteresting to you. I pass now to other views of the subject.

To the farmer there are few questions relative to agriculture more important than the following: 1st. At what seasons of the year, and in what state of preparation, should dung, especially that of barn-yards and hogpens, be carried out and applied to the uses of agriculture? 2d. To the first and immediate use of what crops should its application generally be made?

It seems necessary, before I undertake to answer these questions, or either of them, to remark, that it is the nature of all vegetable and animal substances, such among the rest as are used for dung, when deprived of life, to ferment, putrify, and undergo decomposition. By decomposition is meant the separation of their parts, in the process of which they return to the small atoms of which they were originally composed. That such are the facts we have before us daily the most satisfactory proofs. It is equally obvious, that when considerable quantities of dead vegetable and animal substances, or either of them, are collected together, and exposed to the action of air, water and heat, the processes above described quickly commence, and go on progressively, until the substances thus exposed crumble to pieces, and eventually escape out of sight. To understand some of these first principles of natural science seems to be necessary in order to know how to practice correctly, in regard to the economy of manures. Having thus remarked, I am ready to answer the first question, viz: At what season of the year, and in what state of preparation, ought the dung of barn-yards and hogpens, and others of similar nature, to be carried out, and applied to the uses of agriculture?

In general, dung requires no preparation to fit it for use, and it should be carried out, and applied to the uses of agriculture, as soon after it is accumulated, as the season and the state of business will permit. It is a good rule, and one which will rarely admit of exceptions, to clean out barn-yards, stables, and hogpens, in the spring. Or if it is intended to use dung for crops which are to be planted in the summer, as ruta baga, &c., sufficient quantities for the intended use may be reserved for that purpose, and not be applied until it can be done to the best advantage for the crop. Some exceptions therefore to the rule must be allowed; but in no case should dung be suffered to remain in a barn-yard beyond the spring season, except so much as will be needed for summer crops. That these positions are well based and tenable, will, I think, appear from what has already been remarked—that is, that dung is perishable, that it is composed of substances whose tendency is to ferment, putrify, undergo decomposition, and cease to exist in a visible form. Such being the facts, it is clear, that if dung be suffered to remain in a barn-yard, or elsewhere, during the summer, a great loss in its quantity must inevitably be sustained. The processes of which I have spoken will be going on rapidly at that season. Not only will the dung be greatly reduced in quantity, but so much as may have escaped the ravages of destroying agents, will have lost many of its best and most fertilizing properties. It should be considered, that during the process of which I have spoken, parcels of the dung are continually going off. They make their departure in gases, or invisible airy substances, which ascend into the atmosphere, and are lost to the proprietor of the dung heap.

We are ready now to see at least some of the reasons why dung, in order to be rendered useful to the greatest practicable extent, should be carried to the place of its destination, and there be incorporated with the soil, before the destroying agencies of nature shall have done much to lessen its quantity and reduce its value. It is not, however, to be expected, nor to be desired, that incorporating dung with the soil will entirely arrest and stop the operations of its nature. It will still ferment, putrify, undergo decomposition, and seek its flight into the aerial regions, yet the same losses will not be sustained as in the other case. The whole of this wonderful process admirably conspires to promote vegetable growth, and improve the quality of the soil. Many of the exceedingly small and minute particles, as they are attempting to escape and ascend in gases or aerial substances into the atmosphere, are caught by the roots, stems, and leaves of the plants, and thus serve to promote thrifty vegetation. Many too are caught by the soil itself which covers the manure, or with which it is incorporated, and there they are detained, giving to the soil fertility and permanent improvement.

If this be the true theory of manures, as doubtless it is, it is easy to see that dung is used to the greatest advantage, when it is applied in its fresh unfermented state. It is so, because its beneficial effects, as perceived in the growth of vegetables, are the most durable, and because the soil derives from it greater and more durable advantages, than it can receive from fermented or rotten dung. It is not, however, disputed, that a given bulk or quantity of rotten dung, will, in many cases, do more good to the first crop, than the like quantity of such as is fresh, or unfermented. Yet its powers are more quickly exhausted, and it is doubtful whether it adds much, if any thing, to the permanent improvement of the soil. But let the doubting farmer, in order to be satisfied, consider how much the quantity of his dung is diminished, when it lies, during the summer, scattered in his barn-yard, and exposed to all the agencies which have power to destroy it.

From the doctrines of manures as thus explained, two important inferences are clearly deducible. First, it is not good economy to apply vegetable and animal manures, especially such as are fresh and unfermented, as top dressings to meadows. Formerly, this was practiced to a great extent, and now the practice is not so generally abolished as it should be. In dung thus applied, great losses are unavoidably sustained. Progressively it escapes into the atmosphere, leaving behind it no proofs of it beneficial effects, except what may be seen in the improvement of one or two crops. Not unfrequently, when the season proves to be uncommonly dry, the result is an entire failure. It should be understood, that those inconceivably small particles of matter which escape from dung during the process of fermentation, are specifically lighter than the air, and that their tendency of course is upwards, and not downwards. All go up, while nothing descends, and penetrates into the soil for its benefit. When dung is applied as a top dressing to meadows, its use is always of short duration. After a year or two, every particle of it will have ascended into the atmosphere, and the soil be left not at all the better for it.

Secondly, another inference from the subject is, that when dung is applied to the uses of agriculture, it should, with as little delay as practicable, be intermixed with the soil, and covered with it. When thus disposed of, it is placed in a situation to exert, in a manner peculiarly felicitous, all its powers. *Here* is at once instituted a laboratory, in which nature carries on her mysterious operations in a most perfect manner. While the dung administers directly to the growth of crops, it administers also to the strength and permanent improvement of the soil.

Lest what I have written should lead you and others into practical errors, I ought perhaps to remark, that for the health and vigorous growth of some plants whose constitutions are delicate, there is in fresh unfermented dung too much action. If applied to them, it will contribute nothing to their thriftiness, but on the contrary, render them sickly and drooping. Such are some of the plants, though not many of them, that are cultivated in gardens. As the object in applying manures for horticultural uses is chiefly to obtain a thrifty growth for one season, without much regard to ulterior economy, it may be well enough to use chiefly rotten dung for gardens.

An answer to the other question will be given in my next. A Father.

New York State, December, 1835.

Nature of Plaster, and its Mode of Action.

BY W. GAYLORD.

Lime is one of the few primitive earths, the one which, by its union with sulphuric acid, forms gypsum or sulphate of lime, and has been proved by Sir Humphrey Davy to consist of a metalic base combined with oxygen, though like the base of potash, such is its affinity for the oxygen of the atmosphere, that a complete separation of the two for any length of time was found almost impossible. Lime is soluble in about 450 parts of water. Lime assumes a great variety of appearances, and forms many combinations. With carbonic acid it forms common limestone, the marbles, &c., but all the other combinations are to the farmer of secondary importance, compared with the one which forms the sulphate of lime, or as it is most generally called, "Plaster of Paris." This substance, from the astonishing effect it produces on the grasses, and indeed on most plants, when used under circumstances favorable to its application, has become connected with successful agriculture in such a manner as to justify all the efforts which can be made to explain its mode of action, and more thoroughly investigate its principles.

Sulphate of lime, or plaster, is composed, in 100 parts, of lime 33.0, sulphuric acid 44.8, and water 21.2. When crystalized in a pure state, it is called selenite, is partially transparent, and is the substance used by the ancients for the purposes of sculpture, and termed alabaster; but it is generally found impure, or mixed more or less with foreign substances, which renders it when pulverized or ground, darker in proportion to the extraneous matter it contains. In its natural state, when heated, it parts with its water of crystalization easily, and is then easily reduced to powder, a mode of preparation extensively used when it first came into use as a dressing for soils, but which is now entirely superseded by mills constructed so as to pulverize it without burning. Fortunately, plaster—and we use this term in preference to the more scientific appellation, because it is one which every body understands—is one of the most abundant minerals in nature; and in no part of the world is it to be found in greater profusion than in Western New York, where its intimate connection with, and importance in, the production of wheat, is yearly better understood and appreciated. From Madison county to Niagara, there is no considerable section where it it not found, and we may name the town of Sullivan in Madison, the whole central section of Onondaga from east to west, the vicinity of Cayuga Lake, and the neighborhood of Lockport and Niagara, as places where it is produced in apparently inexhaustable quantities, and of an excellent quality. The use of plaster as a dressing for plants commenced in Germany, where its value was accidentally discovered by noticing the superior growth and vigor of clover, near a foot-path daily trodden by some peasants who were quarrying this mineral,and from whose clothes it had been dusted over the grass near their pathway. From this beginning its use rapidly spread over Germany and France. From Germany its use was introduced into Pennsylvania some fifty years since, where its value has been more fairly and satisfactorily tested than in any other part of the United States. It is singular, and shows the cautiousness, if nothing more, of farmers in adopting any innovation on established usages, that notwithstanding the length of time it has been used, and the constantly increasing fertility of those soils where it has been applied the longest, we find there is a lurking prejudice still lingering in the minds of many of our farmers, not to say a serious doubt, as to the propriety of its use. These objectors reason thus—"We do not deny that plaster enables a farmer to procure greater crops of hay or grain than he could otherwise obtain from a given piece of land in the same time; but as the growth is not natural, but forced, and as no additional ingredient of fertility is furnished to the soil by the plaster, it is evident the farm will be exhausted the sooner in exact proportion to the addition made to the crop." The stimulus given to land by plaster, it is said, "is precisely analagous in its results to the excitement produced by ardent spirits upon man: while under its influence he is as much above par in his spirits and powers, as he is below when the exciting cause has passed away." We have stated these objections in their strongest form, and in the manner in which, so far as our knowledge extends, they usually exert their influence; as, independent of the fact that such has never yet been the effect of plaster, we hope to be able to show satisfactorily from the nature of the substance itself, and its mode of action on plants, that no such result can take place as is apprehended. We do not maintain that constant cropping of land, without rest, rotation of crops, or returning any thing to the soil in the state of manure, would not exhaust it essentially in spite of the application of plaster, but we do maintain, that where plaster is used, even in such an injurious course of treatment, the exhaustion will not be more rapid, and the profits of cropping will be far greater, than without it.

In the first place, these objections to the use of plaster are wholly founded on the mistaken assumption that all the nourishment of plants is furnished by the soil in which they are planted, and of course the exhaustion will be in proportion to the magnitude and the vigor of their growth. This supposition it will not be difficult to show,is a great and fundamental error. The sap or circulating fluid of plants enters the roots by their spongioles or minute fibers, and holding in solution saline, extractive, mucilaginous, saccharine, and other matters, rises upwards through the wood, and is distributed through the fine pores of the stem, and the delicate ramifications of the leaves. These substances are readily soluble, and plants therefore find no difficulty in obtaining their supply from the earth, but the most important ingredient in their growth, and one which enters into their formation in far greater proportion than any other, has not yet been mentioned, and this is carbon or charcoal. Now although carbon or coal exists in the earth in immense quantities, yet as it is perfectly insoluble in water, it cannot, like most of the salts, earths, alkalies, &c., be furnished to plants as they are, that is, by solution and absorption in its natural state. How then is the carbon obtained, the presence of which in abundance is proved wherever wood or the stalks of plants is burned? We answer from the air, and that by two methods. Carbonic gas furnishes the medium through which plants receive their carbon—a substance which in some kinds of wood and plants, such as box and the straw of wheat, amounts to nearly 50 per cent. of the whole—and is composed of 27.4, parts of carbon, and 72.6, of oxygen. Carbonic gas is the air which so frequently proves fatal in wells, old cisterns, and in close chambers where charcoal is incautiously burned. This gas is by plants absorbed directly from the air, in which it is always found more or less,and under certain circumstances this absorption goes on with rapidity. Experiments conducted by Priestly, Lavosier, Davy, Chaptal, Berzelius, all eminent chemists,prove beyond controversy, that during the day carbonic gas is absorbed, the carbon appropriated to the growth of the plant and the oxygen set free, while during the night directly the reverse of this process is going on, oxygen being absorbed, and carbonic gas evolved. Carbon thus absorbed directly from the air, is one of the methods by which this essential article in their formation is obtained by plants; but it is by another method in which far the greater quantity is procured, and in effecting which plaster becomes so important an auxiliary. Carbonic gas is rapidly absorbed by water at all times, and when recently boiled, water will absorb its own weight of carbonic gas at the common temperature and pressure of the atmosphere. When thus combined with water, and furnished in proper quantities, it is ready for being taken up by the spongioles of the roots, and thus converted into food, or the wood of trees and plants. We say in *proper quantities*, for though indispensable to the growth of plants, too large a proportion of carbonic gas is fatal to them,and when combined with water in its greatest possible quantity, as in the peat bogs of Ireland or Scotland,it is of all substances the least adapted to promote vegetation. We now see how that any substance which will by its chemical action furnish moisture during the heat of summer, and especially on dry sandy or gravely soils, will, by providing a medium for the supply of carbon at the time it is most required, materially aid the growth of plants; and the supplying this moisture, and thus of course the carbon, is precisely what plaster does when applied to vegetables on such soils as above mentioned. We have shown that plaster is composed of lime and sulphuric acid. Sulphuric acid attracts water, which it takes from the atmosphere so very rapidly, as to imbibe one third of its own weight in twenty-four hours. When plaster is exposed to the air in small quanties, as it is when sown, it slowly undergoes decomposition, or separates into its constituent parts more or less perfectly. The sulphuric acid thus set free seizes with avidity on the water of the atmosphere, which water is deposited on the leaves of plants, and is thus conducted to the roots of the plants, or on the earth itself, where it is speedily impregnated with the carbonic gas already in the air, or which is rapidly poured from the leaves of plants during that part of the twenty-four hours which forms their period of expiration. Sulphuric acid produces another effect which has a direct tendency to aid in the production of moisture. During its development and combination with the air, it has a tendency to slightly depress the temperature, as all

acquainted with the artificial formation of ice will understand, an action directly calculated to effect a greater deposition of dew, and thus add materially to the absorption of carbon. Every one must have remarked, that on those parts of a field where plaster has been sown, the dew is more plentiful, and lies longer, than on the other parts, and that the clover will be more fresh and vigorous. Plaster, operating in the way we have described, produces precisely these effects, and hence on suitable soils the great value of the mineral. Plaster then, if our theory of its action is correct, cannot impoverish land. It is true, that little, if any, of the plaster goes directly to the formation of plants; after the sulphuric acid is separted, a little lime is left, and that, small as may be its quantity, is always of value in a soil by assisting the decomposition of vegetable matter; it is by its chemical action in giving the means of separating from the air a substance necessary to their existence, and offering it ready prepared for the use of plants, that its value is derived. The simple facts of the case seem to be these: Plants must have carbon, or they cannot be healthy and vigorous—as carbon in its pure state is insoluble, it can only be furnished them in the state of carbonic acid or gas—this can only be made available to any considerable extent by combination with water. During the heats of summer, and on sandy ground, this is extremely scarce, and here we find plaster steps in to our aid—the sulphuric acid of the plaster attracts this from the atmosphere, and by depositing it in the form of dew, places it in a situation in which this combination with carbonic gas can be effected in the best manner. Thus the chain of cause and effect is complete, and the whole operation bears the marks of most consummate wisdom and design. If this carbon was one of the original earths, and could in its natural state be taken from the soil by plants, instead of being derived from the air, there might be some plausibility in the objections made against the use of plaster; as it is, they must go for nothing, even were not our view of the subject supported, as it fully is, by long experience of its beneficial effects. We trust threfere that no hesitation will be felt by any in purchasing plaster for the purpose of sowing on clover or meadow, or for a top dressing cn wheat. This article has been extended to such a length, that we must be compelled to reserve some hints we wished to make on its extensive use, proper soils, time of sowing, &c. For this, our anxiety to rescue this invaluable mineral from what we fully believe an unfounded charge of injury to the farmer, must be a sufficient apology.

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Since writing the above, I have received the 2d No. of the Genesee Farmer, in which is a valuable article on plaster from the pen of J. Adlum, Esq., one of best agriculturists of Pennsylvania. In that article I am happy to perceive a general agreement with the opinion I have advanced, especially on its value to the farmer, its furnishing a supply of moisture, &c. Mr. A. however attributes this supply of moisture to the perspiration of the plant itself, an inference perfectly excusable in one who had not paid particular attention, perhaps, to the chemical action of plaster, but which I think is much more philosophically and satisfactorily accounted for by the theory of action stated in the preceding essay. I am not a bigot, however, to any theory, and if our farmers will only get plaster, and use it, I am content they should form a system of its action to suit themselves, conscious that with farmers the proof of the pudding is in the eating. W. Gaylord.

Otisco, January 18, 1836.

UNCLE BEN.'S NOTIONS.

BY HENRY.

Mr. Tucker—In your valuable agricultural journal, you have often solicited farmers to give freely their opinions on the various branches of agriculture, and the method, plan, or system each was pursuing—and would they but do so, it would open an immense fund of useful information. As it is my intention to become a farmer, I have of late been very intimate with Uncle Benjamin, who, though by some called a whimsical old codger, is a very good farmer, and has got along extremely well in the world, notwithstanding he begun poor, and has had a very hard farm to work, without any other income but what it produced.

Uncle is very communicative, and will with pleasure give me any information in his power; and as it is my intention to put his ideas on paper lest I forget them, I will send them to you, and if you think they are of any value, you shall be welcome to them. But you must not expect accuracy nor beauty of style, for Uncle is a plain, homspun farmer, who always tells his story blunt, off-hand, and values little the beauty of words, unless they convey good sense. Yet I must say this for him—if he is no admirer of elegance in writing, yet he is a great lover of agricultural works, and often declares that they have been worth 500 per cent. to him.

The other evening, when paying him a visit, he accosted me thus: "Well, Henry, it is time you were a thinking of going to the West, and commencing farming for yourself." Yes, Uncle, but what can I do at farming with my stinted means, as 300 dollars is all that I can muster. "Sit down here," said he, "and I will tell you how I begun, not for the sake of egotism, but to let you know that much money is not absolutely necessary for an industrious man to make a beginning. But before I commence, let me tell you that it is not income nor possessions which makes a man rich, but industry and economy;—without the one, he never can acquire property, and destitute of the other, he never will retain it. When I was 21, a new suit of homespun clothes, an axe, and ten dollars in cash, was all my property. But I knew how to work, and thought I would take care of my earnings; so I resolved to come here, which was then the far west wilderness, and much I was laughed at for my presumption. But I pushed a head, and after a hard tramp of 200 miles on foot through woods and mire, I arrived here, not overstocked with cash, nor too well off for shoes. But I looked a head, and went to work in summer by the month—in winter took jobs of chopping—took good care of my earnings, and when I got a little spare cash, lent it to my trusty neighbors. As for fine clothes, they cost me little at that time; they could not be had, and were not thought of; but as the country advanced, extravagance jumped in with tremendous strides; but I never followed the fashions, thinking that a farm would be better for me in old age, than having worn a few fine coats in youth. I always dressed plain, and never saw but that I was as much respected as the finest dandy that ever topped the fashions. But to return to my narrative. I worked and saved for seven years, by which time I had collected sufficient to pay for this farm. It was the only one unoccupied in the neighborhood, and a hard one it was. My friends all told me that I never could make it a farm worth having. But I looked a head, resolved to try, and went to work, and you know what it is now." Yes, Uncle, it is called one of the best farms in town, and I now think that I have little reason to fear in commencing with 300 dollars, when you have done so much with ten. It is late, and I must go home, but will come again and recive another lesson, so good night. Henry.

DETERIORATION OF PLASTER.

BY O. P. Q.

There has been much complaint among farmers in this vicinity, that plaster did not produce that effect upon our lands which it once did, and that very little if any benefit was derived from it to our crops. While some have attributed the failure to some informality in sowing it the right time of the moon, others, with more propriety perhaps, have been led to question the genuineness of the article. The manufactory of plaster has been found to be a money making business, and plaster beds have been sought after with great avidity, and it would not be the strangest thing in this day of wonders, if some of these beds were not as purely gypsum as they might be. In the 4th volume of the Genesee Farmer, page 381, we have the following tests given:

Put a quantity of it pulverized into a kettle over the fire, and when heated it gives out a sulphureous smell. If the ebulition or boiling which takes place is considerable, the plaster is good, but if not, it is considered indifferent—and if it remains motionless like sand, it is thought to be hardly worth any thing. Another test of its goodness is obtained by putting the powder alone into an iron pot over the fire, and when it bubbles like boiling water, it will admit of a straw being thrust to the bottom without resistance.

That these tests are correct I cannot say. I have tried the plaster from one mill, which gave out no smell in heating, neither did it bubble like boiling water. One of my neighbors tried samples from three different beds, all of which resembled heated sand, neither giving out sulphuric smell, nor bubbling. I would therefore propose the following inquiries: Can these tests be relied on? Is there any plaster which fully answers these tests? If so, where can it be found, and at what prices? Does it injure plaster to kiln dry it before grinding.

As this is a matter in which we are all deeply interested, would not some of your able correspondents confer a great favor upon the public by giving this subject a thorough investigation.

Yours, &c. O. P. Q.

East Bloomfield, Jan. 25, 1836.

Mr. Tucker—Seeing some observations in vol. 5, No. 51, on the system of road-making in this country, by Willis Gaylord, wherein he justly complains of the system, and the apathy of the Surveyors, or Pathmasters, generally, their want of system, and not paying proper attention to their duty, (or days works to be performed.) Then Mr. Gaylord makes reference to the roads in England. I lived fifty nine years in England, and have lately left it. In the early part of my life, the roads in England were as they are here, and were repaired on the same system, until about the year 1800. That was the year farmers began to flourish—a continental war with France was the cause. Wheat in that year was a guinea a bushel, equal to five dollars and six cents; oats and barley four times their original price; horses, sheep and cattle all in the same proportion. By this change the farmers suddenly became rich, and the first great improvement was their highways. Previous to this improvement, if a farmer and his wife went to market, they put a saddle on the nag, (which was a heavy cart horse or mare,) and a pillion behind it for the wife to ride—the farmer with a basket of live poultry before him, and his wife with a basket of butter and eggs in her lap sitting behind him—the speed about four miles an hour, the regular market jog, jog. When the improvement in the roads took place, this mode of traveling disappeared. The cart horse was supplanted by a half strained blood horse, and a neat vehicle called a gig. Thus the farmer and his wife rode side by side, and instead of carrying the poultry, butter and eggs themselves, they were now sent by a carrier's cart, whose business was to take such things, and bring home from the market the marketings from the shops, (stores.) The farmer's wives in England, in my early days, carded by hand and spun the wool for clothing—also the hemp and flax for linen; but when 1800 came, the wool-cards and spinning wheel was thrown away. The means were in their pockets to pay for manufactured articles. The treasures of the farmers were expended in profusion: it enlivened the manufacturer, who exerted his genius, and employed the abilities of working mechanics, some of whom have become the most wealthy in England. These changes have all arose and kept pace with good roads. If agriculture prospers, it gives a stimulant and a spur to every thing else. I have been speaking of roads generally—I will now confine myself to the town, or village, where I lived. There were six thousand inhabitants, with about twenty-five thousand acres of land, with some of the worst roads in England in it. When 1800 came, every person wanted to improve the roads. To perform this work, the farmers unstrung their purses, and sent their teams, with a man to each team, as the law directs, according to their assessment, for all the roads are either under a turnpike act, or a common highway act. In a few years, all these almost impassible roads disappeared, and particularly in the town, where there was a ditch by the causeway before the houses, from four to five feet wide, full of stagnant water and other filth, sufficient to create an infectious fever. These have all disappeared—the waters are now conveyed away by under drains—the streets all paved—the roads all graveled. This town has emerged from the worst of roads, and I think may challenge all others for their excellence. But all this was done at a very heavy expense, which was levied on the agriculturists, and nothing but the high price of the products of the soil enabled the people to do it.

Among the advantages of good roads may be reckoned the following, viz: An increase in the value of our property—a quick despatch of business—less wear and tear of wagons, &c. It facilitates the traveler, and makes that which was irksome and the most unpleasant, to be the most agreeable.

Before this country can compete with England for good roads, a very great outlay of capital must be levied, for some sections of the country are very unfavorable for the making of roads, the upper strata being a stiff loam mixed with clay, and neither gravel or silt near. As for stone, if they can be broke by a machine it may answer to break them—manual labor is out of the question.

This subject reminds me of the fable: The wagon was stuck in the slough—the wagoner called upon Jupiter to help him—Jupiter says, thou fool, whip thy horses and set thy shoulders to the wheel, &c.

If every one will be like the wagoner, and set their shoulders to the wheel, this great work can be performed without calling upon Jupiter.

Albion, Jan. 16, 1836. T. C.

Making and Packing Butter.

Mrs. *Pendery* has politely handed us the following description of her method of making and packing butter. It will be recollected that the Hamilton County Agricultural Society awarded a premium to Mrs. Pendery at the last fair.

"In the first place, if in the winter, warm the cream, then set it back from the fire, and it will thicken as it cools. Having scalded the churn before the cream is put in, churn lively until the cream is broke, then slower as the butter gathers—if the weather is warm, pour in cold water, shaking the churn with the staff until the butter is gathered. Secondly, take the butter out of the churn, and wash it thoroughly until the milk is out, then sprinkle with salt, mixing the salt lightly through the butter—set it in a cool place for three hours, after which work it so as to mix the salt completely with the butter—sprinkle salt over the butter, and let it stand twenty-four hours, then work all the pickle out with a ladle.

"To lay butter down, in the first place take a stone vessel, scald it well beforehand, then sprinkle some salt in the bottom, and between every churning; when full enough, cover the butter with a pickle so as to keep the air from it. Any person observing the above directions in making their butter, will, I think, adopt the plan."

Catharine Pendery.

Lockland, Jan. 9, 1836: *Far. & Mec.*

Be not eager to interrupt a person speaking, nor uneasy at being yourself interrupted: give all leave to speak in their turn.

Rural Library.

THIS is a Monthly Periodical of 32 large octavo pages, devoted to the republication of the best works on Agriculture, Gardening, and Domestic Economy. The plan embraces abridgments and compilations, as well as entire works; and for a very trifling sum will insure every subscriber a valuable library, that would, on the ordinary plan, cost ten times the amount. It will be embellished with numerous engravings. The second number will soon be ready for delivery at the Agricultural Seed Store, 102 Barclay-street, New-York.

Feb. 1836.—f4t H. HUXLEY & CO.

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Ray G. Waite.
Wm. J. Lansing.
J. D. Morley.
Augustus Howland.
James Rattle.
William Pitkin.
Horace D. Tower.
Remington & Allen.
W. W. Bottom.
Thomas Dale.
Sylvanus Paul.
John Chandler.
Edmund Lee.
John Hatmaker.
F. S. Savage.
David Bacon.
Chester Norman.
John Stayell, Jr.
Isaac Cady.
Loyal Stayell,
Artemus Cady.
Lorenzo Little.
Charles Gere.
John White.

For vols. 5 and 6.

A. Thibodo.
Edward Mynderse.
Philip Woodruff.
Esek Wilbur.
J. S. Merwin.

For vols. 4. & 5:

Jas. L. Voorhees.
E. C. Marsh.
Richard Lord.
Lynch & Clark.
Thomas Rose.

For vol. 5.

G. J. Van Wagoner.
Morton Tainter.
Wm. H. Montgomery.
Augustus Montgomery.
Sylvanus Emmons.
John Meacham.
John Besse.
W. W. Bottom, 2 cop.
George W. Paul.

First half of vol. 6.

E. Gilbert, Jr.
John Sanders.
S. A. Howes.
Carlos A. Stebbins.
Joseph Gilmore.

July, 1835, to July 1836.

Egbert Humphrey.
J. Swett.
William Smith.
B. S. Cheever.

For Vol. 6 & half of 7.

Samuel Trimble.
J. L. Brown.

For Vol. 4.

Israel R. Wood.

Last half of Vol. 5.

Malcom Little.

For Vol. 5 & half of 6.

Augustus Rixleben.

JAMES CURRIER, for vols. 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. [Mr. C. says he is a "life subscriber" to the Genesee Farmer, and that he ought to pay well for it, inasmuch as he made from information derived from its pages in one year, *two hundred and sixty dollars*, in a manner in which he could calculate exactly the profit received.]

Jarvis Cable, for vols. 2, 3, 4 and 5.
Charles Judson, from April 1, to Dec. 31, 1835.
Kingsly Miller, from Oct. 1, 1835, to Oct. 1, 1836.
John Gamble, for Vols. 5, 6, and half of 7.
Abraham Reynolds, half of 5 and 6.
Aaron Sharpless, July, 1836, to July, 1837.
David H. Holden, half of 4, and 5, 6.
Watson Whittlesey, half of 4, and 5.
A. T. Massey, for Vol. 1, and from July 1, 1834, to April 1, 1838.
M. D. Burnet, half of 3, and 4 and 5.

Seeds.

Seeds present as much variety as any other appendages of plants. The capsule of the poppy and colocynth are not inelegant, that of the nutmeg is covered over with an arillus called mace. Some seeds are remarkable for their brilliant colors; some seeds repose in nuts, others in silk, and others again in cotton. The tips of the common teazle are siliceous, and are employed to raise the nap of cloth in preference to any invention of man. Some nuts are polished and enamelled, as the Jumbo nut and Job's tears. The cocoa nut is enveloped in a dense matted moss, of immense strength; cables made of its fabres have proved superior to a hurricane which snapped hempen and chain cables like glass. Some seeds creep, some walk, some leap, and some fly. Others have hooks for laying hold of an object. Fillandria seed carries a thread with it so as to secure it from being blown away. The seed of the dandelion has a shaft, terminated with radiating plumes, which acts on the principle of the wheel and axle, by which it is screwed into the earth. The avena fatua has a hygrometric index, which moves round by moisture; the seed of the thistle moves by means of a plume and globe, which expand, by a centrifugal action, like an umbrella, as the seed escapes from the capsule. Some seeds are barbed, so that when once buried in the earth they cannot be detached by the winds; the shaft of another resembles a corkscrew, and, when the seed, which is preserved vertical by a plume, enters the earth, it is screwed in by the hygrometric action of the shaft, which, being then of no further use, breaks off and becomes the sport of the winds. The seed of the licopodium are highly inflammable, being used at our theatres in the production of artificial lightning, and the fruit of the pendarrus, when ripe, explodes, and sometimes inflames spontaneously when scattering its seeds. The falling seeds of the cannon-ball tree have a sound like that of the running fire of musketry, and the capsules and seeds around the tree present an appearance as if military had bivoucked there. The capsule of the hura crepitants, monkeys' dinner bell, explodes as loud as a pistol, and serves as a summons to these animals, who know the signal well, to assemble from every quarter to the generous feast.

Politeness.

How few little children think it worth while to be polite to their playmates and friends.—By politeness I do not mean a great deal of unnecessary bowing and courtesing, but that delicate attention to the comfort of those around us that springs from a kind, generous heart. How many little children enter the room without noticing respectfully those who are older than themselves. I have seen them come in of a cold winter day and draw their little chairs up before the fire in such a way that those who were sitting back could not feel the warmth of it at all, and this without the least apology, for such a breach of politeness. Then, perhaps, they interrupt those in the room when they are engaged in conversation, by asking some foolish question, instead of waiting till an opportunity was given them to speak. Then they are impolite to their little playmates, their sisters, if they have any; instead of assisting, when their help is really needed, they leave them to help themselves. How many little boys think it beneath them to be kind and polite to a sister.

I have seen some few who, thought differently. I recollect last winter I used to meet a fine manly lad, drawing his sister to school on his sled. Her little rosy cheeks and sparkling eyes bore testimony that his politeness was not thrown away upon her. She would pat his cheek with her little soft hand and call him her "kind brother." He would frequently meet boys of his acquaintance who would urge him to leave his sister and go with them to coast on the common. His answer always was, "Yes, when I have carried little Emily to school." Do you think that boy was not a good son, a good brother? I never saw him impatient when he was walking with his little sister, because her little feet could not "keep up" with his. He didn't give her a sly twitch, as some little boys, do, or frieghten her with stories of "old men," or "beggars," till she was afraid of her shadow. No he was always polite to her. And do you think he will forget to grow polite as he grows older? No; for it will become a habit with him, and the little attentions which cost him nothing, and are so gratifying to those who receive them, will gain many a friend. Think of this when you are tempted to be rude or selfish or unkind to those about you, and remember that you loose nothing by being polite. But a stronger motive than that should influence us, we should "do unto others as we would that they should do unto us." Who is it has said "Be ye kind one to another?"—*Youth's Companion.*

Domestic Habits in Females.—Many a man has owed his success or failure in business as much to the management of his wife, as to his own individual actions. Though domestic occupations do not hold the high rank to which they are justly entitled, yet there is reason to believe that the prevailing sentiments are gradually undergoing a change; that females see more and more the propriety of possessing the ability to overlook and wisely direct the expenditures of that part of the husband's income which fall under their own immediate inspection; and that they are the most deserving characters, whatever their situations, who best perform the duties which those situations require. We believe that at the present day, the instances are more common where ladies in the higher classes of society deem it no disparagement to be familiarly acquainted with all the internal concerns of their families. This is considered not only a matter of choice, but as absolutely necessary if they would maintain that character and influence which they are destined to maintain in society. Yet to the shame of many a mother it must be spoken, that their daughters are suffered to come forward in life unprepared to fill any situation with usefulness and dignity. They are instructed in the *elegant* but not in the *useful* arts of life; and the result will be as it often has been, where there is no security for the possession of wealth, that they will be obliged to exchange the voluptuous dream of life spent in feasting on silver and dozing amidst curtains of velvet, endeavoring to account for the strange inconsistency in the events of real life and the promises of romance—to exchange these, and undergo every drudgery and every humiliation for the wages of lackeys. There is so much truth in the remark, that to paint is well; to play the piano is well; to embroider, is well; but to be able to make a pudding is better than all."

Great Heifer.—Mr. Oliver Shaw of Heath, slaughtered a two years old Heifer lately, weighing as follows.

Quarters	589 lbs.
Tallow	52
Hide	75
Total	716

The Vermont Phœnix tells of a two year old heifer slaughtered in Brattleboro' by Mr. Elias W. Fisher, but it comes a good deal behind Mr. Shaws. The quarters of the Brattleboro' heifer weighed 527 lbs. hide 60, tallow 32—total 619.—*Greenfield Mercury.*

Human Happiness.—Human happiness has no perfect security but freedom;—freedom none but virtue; virtue none but knowledge; and neither freedom, nor virtue, nor knowledge, has any vigor, or immortal hope, except in the principles of the Christian faith, and in the sanctions of the Christian religion.—*President Quincy.*

A Sea Gull asked to Breakfast.—The family of H. Peter, Esq., of Harlyn, on the North coast of Cornwall, one morning at breakfast-time, threw a pice of bread out of the window, to a stray sea-gull which happened to have made its appearance at the moment; the bird ate the bread, and flew away. The next day, at the same hour, he appeared again, was again fed, and departed. From this time, for a period of eighteen years, the gull never failed to show himself at the window every morning at the same hour and to stalk up and down, till he had received his meal, (a bason of bread and milk,) when he instantly took his leave till the next morning. The only time he omitted to do this, was during the period of the pichards being on the coast, which lasted about six weeks in each year, and at this time he omitted his morning visit. At length he brought one of his own species with him to partake of his meal, and continued to come together, daily, for a fortnight, when they suddenly disappeared, and were never seen afterwards.—*Jesse's Gleanings in Natural History.*

Clover Seed.

RED CLOVER of the different varieties, and from different sources, *White Dutch Clover*, *Lucerne*, or *Dutch Clover*, affording 3 or 4 crops in a season, and some other foreign varieties, constantly for sale at the Rochester Seed Store by

REYNOLDS & BATEHAM.

January 28, 1836. jan 30–ar3wf4w

Grass Seed.

CONSTANTLY for sale at the Rochester Seed Store, *Timothy* or *Spear*, *Red Top* or *Herds*, *Orchard* or *Cocksfoot*, *English Ray*, *Pacey's Perennial Rye*, *Italian Perennial Rye*, and several other foreign grasses, most of which have been successfully tried in this country.

N. B. Cash paid for Grass Seed, Beans, Peas, &c. REYNOLDS & BATEHAM,

No. 5, Arcade Hall.

January 28, 1836. jan 30–ar3wf4w

Fresh White Mulberry Seed.

100 POUNDS of *Genuine White Mulberry Seed*, raised in Connecticut, and warranted the growth of 1835. For sale at the sign of the "GOOD SAMARITAN."

Hartford, Conn., Jan. 5, 1836. jan 16–f4t*

Seed Corn.

THE subscriber has a quantity of the celebrated 12 rowed Dutton Corn, raised by J. Buel. The advantages of raising this corn are its prolific qualities, being easily made to yield from 70 to 80 bushels to the acre, and itsearly maturity, ripening in about 100 days from time of planting.

W. THORBURN, Seedsman,

347 N. Market-st. opposite Post Office.

Albany, Dec. 25.—j9

1000,000 Silk Worm Eggs,

FOR SALE.

THE subscriber having promised to supply so many individuals who called to see his worms at work last year, and he having already sold so many, deems it proper to advise those who have not yet received any, and are intending to have some, that they must order them at once, or possibly they will be disappointed, the demand being so great, and this being the proper season to forward them. They are sold for 25 cents a thousand. Orders enclosing the amount will be punctually attended to.

JAMES HOUGHTON.

Rochester, Jan. 7, 1836. j7rf3m

Robbins' Planting Machine.

WITH this Machine Corn, Beans, Peas, Broom Corn, Mangel Wurtzel, Turneps, Onions, and seeds of almost every description, can be planted with more system and correctness than can be done in the usual manner of planting with the hand and hoe. One man may easily plant five acres a day, placing the seeds any given distance apart, from two or more inches, and in rows two and a half feet apart.

Machines can be had by applying to Reynolds & Bateham, Rochester; C. N. Bement, Treasurer of the State Agricultural Society, Albany; Bushrod Buck, Lanesborough, Berkshire county, Mass.; and Daniel T. Buck, Lowville, Lewis county, agent and proprietor for making and vending said machines, at all of which places it is intended to keep a supply on hand.

Lowville, Nov. 24, 1835. nov 28–6m